

HOUSE BILL 2656
By Cooper B

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 50 and Title 63, relative to health screening of children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-5004, is amended by designating the existing language as subsection (a) and by adding the following new subsections:

(b) A health care professional is authorized to indicate the need for a dental or vision screening on any report or form used in relationship to reporting immunization status for a child as required under this part. Public schools receiving such forms or reports shall inform parents of the need to seek appropriate screenings for their children.

(c)

(1) Vision screening, for purposes of this section, is a screening test recommended by a nationally recognized professional medical organization, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Ophthalmology or American Optometric Association.

(2) Dental screening, for purposes of this section, is a screening procedure recommended by a nationally recognized professional medical or health care organization that is approved by the commissioner of health and performed by a person authorized to conduct such screenings under the provisions of Title 63.

(d) The commissioner shall promulgate rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of Title 4, Chapter 5, necessary to carry out this section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 63-5-109, is amended by deleting the word "or" at the end of subdivision (12); by deleting the period (.) at the end of subdivision (13) and substituting instead a semicolon (;) and the word "or"; and by adding the following language as a new subdivision to be designated as follows:

(14) Personnel involved in operations, under general supervision of a dentist and approved by the board, that provide dental screenings and services to underserved populations, as designated by the department of health, or that provide dental services to individuals under the age of twenty-one (21) years as part of the federal early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment program.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.